



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today the arrest of a Lowville man for selling false identification documents.

MOISES VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO, 36, of Lowville, New York, was arrested this morning by agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for possessing and transferring false identification documents, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028, and fraud and misuse of a visa, permit, or other document, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1546. A search warrant was also executed at VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO's residence at 6404 Williams Road, Lowville.

The investigation, which began in late 2011, led to the purchase of false documents by a Cooperating Source (CS) of ICE. The purchases led to a warrant being obtained for VELAZQUEZ' arrest and the search of his residence, which warrants were executed this morning. Also found at the residence were seven undocumented aliens, who were administratively processed by ICE to determine whether they had any criminal history or prior deportations. VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO is a Mexican citizen, and has previously removed from the United States in 2007 and again in 2008.

VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO is scheduled to appear at an initial appearance tomorrow, March 8, 2012, at 11:30 am before the Honorable David E. Peebles, United States Magistrate Judge. If convicted, VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO could face up to five years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, a term of supervised release of up to 3 years, and deportation to Mexico.

The VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). Nick DiNicola, assistant special agent in charge of HSI in Albany, N.Y. , said:

"This case highlights our commitment to protecting both the integrity of our immigration system and our national security," said "Immigration benefit fraud schemes undermine the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system, pose a security vulnerability and potentially rob deserving immigrants of benefits they rightfully deserve. HSI will not allow the exploitation of our proud legal immigration tradition for profit and will move aggressively against those who engage in such criminal conduct."

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carl G. Eurenus, who can be reached at 448-0672.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.